

*Retirement Age for Senators*

**Mr. Peters:** Give us one.

**Mr. Regan:** —of whom at least half are members of the Conservative party. I would say, for instance, that Senator Harold Connolly is eminently qualified to sit in the Senate. Here is a man who started out as an Irish boy in Halifax with no great wealth such as some hon. Members opposite have decried. Rather, here is a man who through perseverance and a newspaper career found his way into the Nova Scotia legislature. He started as a backbencher without inherited wealth and made his way up to the top until he served as premier of the Province of Nova Scotia. Is he a worth-while member of the Senate?

Again, let us take Senator Gordon B. Isnor, who represents my city and who celebrated his 80th birthday this week. To this day he continues to turn out more correspondence to his constituency, which is my constituency, than I could ever possibly do, and he remains extremely active in all aspects of parliamentary life. Let me tell you a little bit about him and the contribution he has made, and you can then decide whether he has the qualifications to be a member of the Senate rather than other people appointed in a different way.

As early as 1914 Senator Isnor was elected to municipal office in the City of Halifax, and he served long and well. Then he was elected by the people, not rejected like Mr. Forsey, to sit in the Nova Scotia legislature. While he was in the Nova Scotia legislature he was the man who brought about the first free school books in that province, something in which Nova Scotia pioneered; but perhaps these hon. Members opposite are against people who have had a part in the provision of free school books for the children of our country. Then Senator Isnor was elected to the House of Commons and served in this chamber honourably and well for many years. Never in all his years in municipal, provincial and federal politics did he lose an election. He has never lost an election and he has performed many public services. Is he worthy to serve in the Senate?

● (3:30 p.m.)

I do not want to restrict this consideration to one party, so let me move just for a moment to another political party. How about Senator F. M. Blois from Truro, Nova Scotia, who was appointed several years ago. Again, here is a man who had a long municipal service in Truro, then served in the Nova Scotia Legislature. He is a man who has been active in business and industry in Nova Scotia over

[Mr. Regan.]

the years. I think he is a good man to be here speaking for Nova Scotia.

Then, let us talk about Senator J. J. Kinley. Senator Kinley received an award from the King of Norway for his distinguished service to Norway when he served with Canadian forces during the First World War. Senator Kinley is the Honorary President of the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association and an industrialist. He served as a councillor of the Town of Lunenburg, an M.L.A., served here as a Member of Parliament, he had a distinguished war record and is a distinguished industrialist in the Town of Lunenburg. I suggest he speaks well for the people in that part of the country.

During the debate I heard someone say that the agriculture side of Canadian life was not represented well in the Senate. I am not going to deal with agriculturists from other parts of the country in the Senate, but let me just mention the late Senator John MacDonald from Nova Scotia who died a year or two ago. He was a former Minister of Agriculture in the Province of Nova Scotia and had a long and distinguished career in that regard. He made a very great contribution to agriculture in the Senate.

Since he passed on Senator Frank Welch from the Annapolis Valley, a Conservative Senator, has been appointed to succeed him. Senator Welch is a well known horticulturist, and he is in a position to make a worth-while contribution in the Senate. Then, we have the medical side represented by the Hon. Donald Smith, a dentist. This man served as a councillor, then a Member of Parliament here in Ottawa before going into the Senate to represent Nova Scotia. Would hon. Members tell me who would better represent the main stream of activities in Nova Scotia?

**Some hon. Members:** The Member for Halifax.

**Mr. Regan:** Then, we have Senator Willie Comeau, who served in the Legislative Council of Nova Scotia before it was abolished. He was then a provincial Cabinet Minister and finally came here to Ottawa. I do not want to cover all of them. If you would like to ask about specific Nova Scotians, I would suggest that all of them are eminently well qualified on the basis of their experience, on the basis of their recognition by the public, on the basis of their achievements or on any other basis you want to mention.

**Mr. Peters:** How many of them are you going to retire?